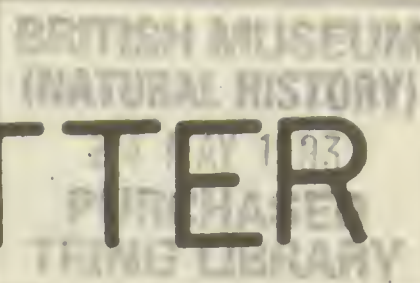




NEWSLETTER



for members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., ornithological society of the Carolinas

Volume 39

March/April 1993

Number 2

Historic Inn Hosts Meeting

When the Carolina Bird Club meets at Lake Lure on May 7-9, western North Carolina will be showcasing migrating birds, spring wildflowers and magnificent scenery.

Headquarters for the meeting is the historic Lake Lure Inn, which is located on Highway 74 and sits directly on the lake. Although space at the Inn is sold out, there are many small inns and cottages within a mile of the Lake Lure Inn. In particular, we recommend the Gingerbread Inn (704) 626-4038 and the Dogwood Inn (704) 625-4403. Available camp site include Dogwood Travel Park (800) 253-1353 and Hickory Nut Falls Campground (704) 625-4014.

Registration will begin at 3:00 p.m. on Friday in the lobby of the Inn. A social hour will begin at 7:00 p.m. followed by the evening meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Friday's meeting will include a short program on warbler identification and a review of the Saturday field trips. Both full and half day field trips are being offered to a variety of locations including the Blue Ridge Parkway, Pearson's Falls, Chimney Rock and a picturesque sod farm. A \$5 entrance fee will be charged on the Chimney Rock field trip. Most

half day trips will be repeated in the afternoon.

Special Note: As of March 4, fifty-eight requests had been received for the Bat Cave field trips. The following have spaces reserved as requested: (Friday) Bynum, Garrett, White, Sherwood, B. Smith, Spivey; (Sunday) Donmoyer, Edwards, G. Smith, Goldstein; Haggard, Tyrrell. Two trips have been added on Saturday with twelve spaces available on each. Those who have sent in a reservation request, but did not secure a space on the Friday and Sunday trips may sign up for the Saturday trips at the Friday evening meeting. Priority will be determined by the postmark on their reservation requests.

On Saturday evening there will be a social hour at 7:00 p.m. The annual business meeting follows at 8:00 p.m. with the election and installation of officers. The program will conclude with a presentation by Elisabeth Feil and Simon Thompson on the geology and bird life of Chimney Rock.

Sunday morning will include several planned field trips and opportunities for birding on your own.

Nominating Committee Report

Derb Carter, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reports that he and members Taylor Piephoff and Robin Carter will submit the following nominations at the annual business meeting of the Carolina Bird Club May 8, 1993, at Lake Lure, NC:

President: Lex Glover, Lugoff, SC
Treas: Robert Wood, Columbia, SC
Secretary: Len Pardue, Durham, NC
Vice-Pres. (ENC): Harry LeGrand,
Raleigh, NC
Members-at-Large: (WNC) Judy Walker, Charlotte, NC; (ENC) Paula Wright, Greenville, NC; (SC) Teddy Shuler, Tamasee, SC & Steve Patterson, Telion, SC (1 year unexpired term)

Greetings, VOS

The Carolina Bird Club, Inc., ornithological society of the Carolinas, welcomes members of the Virginia Ornithological Society to the readership of the CBC Newsletter for this issue.

By special arrangements between the two organizations, membership lists have been exchanged for the purpose of encouraging consideration of dual membership. The CBC Executive Committee chose to mail the current issue of the Newsletter to all VOS members so that they might get an idea of the broad range of activities of our club. CBC members will also be receiving information about membership in VOS.

We encourage our VOS friends to attend our spring meeting or one of the special field trips. A sample copy of *The Chat*, our ornithological journal, can be obtained from our Headquarters in Raleigh, NC, which would also be happy to process your membership application.

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Birding The High Desert and Northern Rockies

by Dennis Burnette

Six of us, all Carolina Bird Club members, stood on a summit nearly two miles above sea level and surveyed this section of the northern Rockies.

We were cold, although our friends and families would soon be celebrating the Fourth of July in the heat back home, and snow still could be seen in sheltered pockets on the hillsides surrounding our vantage point. We had come here from the high desert just a few days earlier, where the air was dry and the thermometer had topped 100, to add more birds to our trip list.

By the time we would board the plane for the return trip east, we would have seen 254 species; everyone would have added several life birds to their personal lists, and we would have done it through our own research without using a bird-finding guide.

Most of our time was spent in Idaho, with short excursions into Utah, Montana, and Wyoming. How we came to this part of the continent, and how we saw so many species in this unfamiliar place, is a story that had its beginnings almost a year earlier.

We are a group of friends who met as members of the Piedmont Bird Club in Guilford County, NC. We had made short birding trips together and enjoyed each other's company, so the idea of taking a longer trip further afield was appealing. Several of us had birded in the West, but none of us had visited the Rocky Mountains. With this very general goal in mind, we began researching the possibilities.

About that time, an advertisement arrived in the mail from a birding tour company that announced a trip to Idaho. Idaho? We didn't know anything about Idaho but potatoes! Further study revealed that Idaho not only has Rocky Mountains, but high desert as well. And it is home to many of the birds on our "hit list"

The tour was at a time when few of us could go, but the brochure started the wheels turning. We checked our field guides again and found that many of the good birds were shown on the range maps in the southern part of the state. A visit



Lynn and Dennis Burnette

to AAA for a Tour Book and a map of the area showed that a trip could be done within our time frame of two weeks. We decided to get the bird-finding guide to the area.

We checked the bookstores; we checked the American Birding Association; we checked the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. There is no bird-finding guide to the area! Neither is there a state book of the birds of Idaho currently in print. This would be harder than we thought. We split up our research tasks, began to collect information about the state, and found that it is possible to plan a major birding trip without a guide.

Some of the agencies we contacted included the state tourism office, the wildlife department, Federal wildlife refuges, the state park system, and national forest headquarters. We got the addresses from a variety of sources. The book, *Where the Birds Are* by J. O. Jones, listed some of them. The AAA Tour Book listed others. As information began to flow in, we got other ideas and addresses.

Because we were interested in more than just birds, we also looked at a couple of guide books to the area (one good one is *Idaho for the Curious* by Cort Conley) and began to learn something of the human history of the region. The picture that emerged from our research was rich in Native American lore, pioneers on the Oregon Trail, Mormons seeking religious

freedom, Butch Cassidy, and other western legends coming to life--Idaho became a real place in our minds, not just a vast potato basket.

We also learned that the land that is now Idaho was shaped by barely imaginable violent geologic events: groaning glaciers slowly sweeping down from the north, a great flood forming an inland sea long since gone from the earth, even recent volcanic activity spewing lava across the high plains, all leaving their marks in turn on the land and setting the stage for the flora and fauna we were to find.

We began to construct an itinerary, and the planning became almost as much fun as the trip. With maps spread out and brochures scattered about, we identified places we wanted to visit. Many of the refuges and parks had responded to our letter and phone calls by sending bird lists. These helped us narrow our search to our "hit list" birds. One of our members created an excellent checklist of birds on his computer complete with codes indicating our chances of seeing each species.

Well into our planning, we became aware of two valuable booklets that recently had been published. The first, *Idaho Bird Distribution* by Stephens and Sturts, presents all the species known for the state, with distribution maps, in 76 pages. The *Idaho Wildlife Viewing Guide* by Carpenter, 104 pages, provides directions to 94 sites where wildlife of all kinds can be seen. (This booklet is part of a series; a NC edition recently has been published.)

Before long we realized that Idaho had too much to see for our planned two week trip. We began to narrow our scope. We would concentrate on the high desert east along the Snake River, which cuts across the southern part of Idaho; make detours to some likely spots along the way; and then head north into the mountains of the northeast corner. Our loop would then turn west through the edge of the Sawtooth Mountains, and southwest across the plains back to the airport in Boise. We had our plan and we bought our tickets. (to be continued)

Jottings from my journal:

1-13-93: After more than a week of rainy, misty days, the sun came out this afternoon. This evening as CJ and I walked through the woods, we heard the "peent" of woodcocks all over the place.

1-16-93: About 1 p.m. I watched six Cardinals fly in and out of the Bradford pear near the house. We have a winter feeder underneath the tree, and the birds, male and female, were taking turns feeding-back to tree-feeding. I rarely see Cardinals in the yard during the day. They usually feed early in the mornings and again just about dusk. On the rare occasions I do see Cardinals during the day, I see only one or two at a time. Is this a portent of winter weather on the way?

In an emergency situation just before Christmas (no time to make summer suet), I bought a fruit-and-berry suet cake. For a long time nothing ate it, but suddenly it has become popular. A Carolina Wren (I guess a *North* Carolina Wren, since it looks quite different from the wren on the SC license plates) was snacking away and a Downy Woodpecker chased the wren off so he could feast.

1-17-93: We saw a Cooper's Hawk in the front yard about 10 a.m. It was about the size of a crow, had a rounded tail with four striped bands. The tail did not have the distinct white terminal band, so we figured it must be a young one, probably female. The hawk took off after a junco, but the little bird got away. About an hour later, the Cooper's was back. House Finches and Goldfinches sat in trees not too far away, all heads turned toward the hawk. A brave little Goldfinch lit just above the hawk and looked as if he were telling the hawk to leave. The hawk did.

1-26-93: About 6 p.m. CJ saw a pair of Wood Ducks light on the pond--the first we have had all winter.

2-5-93: Hermit Thrush in back yard scurrying around.

2-6-93: Hermit Thrush in front yard spending most of his time on the ground under the hanging suet feeder.

I had forgotten how pretty the Purple Finch is. We have been so engulfed with House Finches that when the Purples finally arrived they really stood out with their coloring. First we had one pair, then two, and today we have four pairs and a spare female.

Backyard Birding

with Frances J. Nelson

I put up another block of commercial suet. As I was loading the block into the feeder, I heard a really pretty song. I went back in the house, looked out the door, and a Pine Warbler was on the suet. Later CJ pointed out the Pine Warbler's song to me, and I realized that was what I'd heard near the suet feeder.

The Hermit Thrush continues to hang around the yard.

2-8-93: We heard the woodcock's "peent", saw the bird take off, heard it's wing-twitter, and lost sight of it as it ascended. We stood still and finally heard the descending song and watched the woodcock land in about it's original spot and start "peenting" again. As we walked around we hear at least four different birds.

2-13-93: We bought safflower seed today to see if we can drive away the House Finches. The chart we picked up at the garden center stated that Cardinals are the eaters of safflower seed, that squirrels and finches don't like the bitter taste. We also were warned that it might take a few days for the Cardinals to get used to it.

2-14-93: A Goldfinch in almost complete summer plumage showed up (he stayed a week).

2-18-93: I received a note from Clyde Smith saying that his cousin in Greensboro had also heard that squirrels don't like safflower seed, so she tried it, too. The squirrels didn't hesitate; they gobbled up the safflower along with the other seed. Squirrels are eating our safflower, too, along with House Finches. So far we haven't seen Cardinals near it. Maybe these people who have good luck with safflower and Cardinals have different breeds. It reminds me of Mr. Dave Abraham, West Columbia, SC, who feeds cantaloupe seed to his birds while our birds won't touch them.

2-19-93: Robins were all over the place today--the most I've seen in a while.

2-24-93: I saw a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in the woods--the first this winter.

2-26-93: Winter storm--we were supposed to have 1-3 inches of snow. Hah! We did have 0.3 inches and then freezing rain. The birds are going crazy eating. Even the Cardinals have been in the yard all day. The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker showed up for a little while, but decided the cover was better in the woods. The surprise is the Hermit Thrush. Today he has been in the yard under the feeders all day. He appears to be eating some kind of seed, but I have had no luck identifying it.

Our bluebird feeder has been being emptied of dogwood berries (3-4 a day), regularly, but we have yet to see what's taking the berries. Today for the first time I saw a bird inside the feeder--a Carolina Wren.

2-27-93: After freezing rain all day yesterday, the trees are covered in ice making the woods look like a crystal fairyland. The yard continues to be filled with birds. Today we have had two Pine Warblers at one time. That's a first.

Later I watched a Golden-crowned Kinglet male flitting about three feet from me on the edge of the creek. It didn't get in the water--just near the edge. I could not figure out what it was doing. As I watched, a female flew right over my shoulder and began flitting around, too. I don't know if this is some kind of mating thing or not, but eventually the male flew off and the female flew to a nearby tree and started searching branches for something wonderful.

3-1-93: I heard, but did not see, the Yellow-Bellied Sapsucker in the woods in the same spot I had seen it in February.

3-8-93: CJ and I spent the weekend at my folks' in Washington, NC. My eleven year old niece told us that earlier in the week, she and her mom had watched two Pileated Woodpeckers on the ground beside the road. She said the birds stayed about 30 seconds; and "Aunt Frances, they were huge."

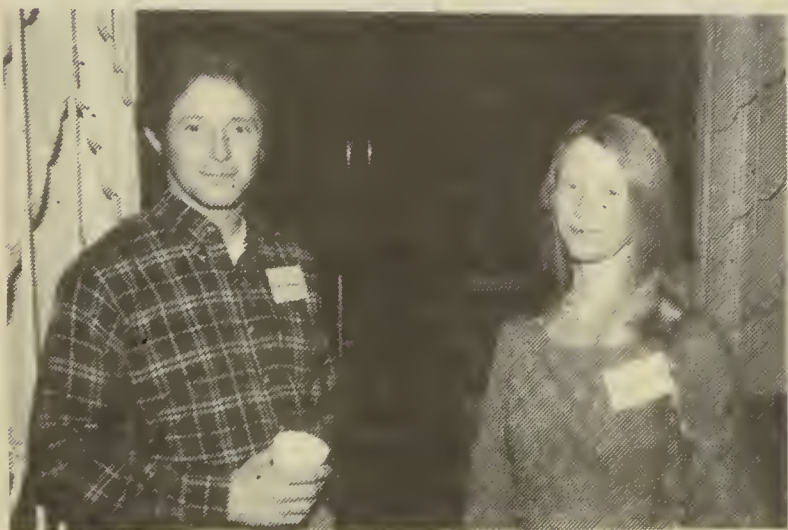
When we returned home Sunday afternoon, the feeders still had some feed in them. Until this weekend, we have had to fill feeders daily. So perhaps the spring migration is beginning. Daffodils, forsythia, and quince are blooming, and we have fewer birds--spring may indeed be on the way.

Please help. Send your backyard birding stories to 1006 Dogwood Hill Lane, Wake Forest, NC 27587.

Winter Meeting

At

Beautiful Beaufort By The Sea



New member Ellen Edwards and her brother Carl from Raleigh, NC, joined 184 CBC members and guests for the winter meeting in Beaufort, SC, January 29-31, 1993.



Hunting Island State Park Ranger, Joe Anderson talks about their 108 ft. tall lighthouse (L) which Carolyn Smith of Winterville, NC, climbed to get a bird's eye view of the island (below).



CBC Executive Committee Member-at-Large for SC, Lex Glover, (L) discusses meeting plans with Club president, John Wright (R). The Saturday evening program featured Michael Provst, ACE Basin Task Force Coordinator who gave an update on the project to preserve the ACE



Backyard Birding Editor, Frances Nelson, brought her own "Black & White Wobbler"



Ed Blitch of Charleston, SC, (L) discusses his field trip to Savannah River NWR with Gail and Herman Langford of Raleigh, NC. Other field trip leaders were Bob Wood, Graham Dugas, Peter Worthington, Ned & Teddy Shuler, Robin Carter, Pete Laurie, Jennifer Wren, Dennis Forsythe, Nathan Dias, and Lex Glover. Their efforts produced 165 species for the weekend.

CBC Spring & Summer Field Trips

Wilmington Area Spring Birds

Leader: Ricky Davis

April 17, 1993

Limit: 15 Participants Cost: \$10

The Wilmington area of southeastern North Carolina can be very rewarding for birds in springtime. This one day trip will go to several of the local hot spots for shorebird and land bird migrants.

Meet at Greenfield Lake Park parking area (on US 421 S, Carolina Beach Road) at 7:00 a.m. We will then bird areas around the lake for migrants. Then we

will head to Carolina Beach State Park to continue land birding. After lunch, we will go to Ft. Fisher to look for shorebirds and wading birds. We will spend most of the afternoon in this normally bird-rich locale. There will be moderate walking while at Ft. Fisher, and we will bird as long as we continue to see birds. The day's birding will end around

5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Accommodations are plentiful in Wilmington and the local beaches.

Registration: Contact Ricky Davis at (919) 443-0276 to reserve space. Send registration form with fee to CBC headquarters.

Caesar's Head Spring Migrants

Leader: Heyward Douglass

May 1, 1993

Limit: 20 Participants Cost: \$5

The escarpment of the Blue Ridge gets wave after wave of spring migrants by the first weekend in May, and there is not a better area to be in than the stretch of winding highway between Scenic Highway 11 and Caesar's Head State Park.

During this caravan field trip at several pull-offs along US 276 from SC 11 to the Park it is possible to view a dozen or more migrants at once right at eye level as they feed in the newly leafing trees. Once at the Park it should not be a surprise to see any number of soaring birds, with the

possibility of sighting a Peregrine Falcon which has nested at Table Rock the past three years.

There are motels in Easley (Days Inn 803-859-9902; Comfort Inn 803-859-7520), Clemson (Holiday Inn 803-654-4450; Ramada 803-654-7501, Comfort Inn 803-653-3600), Seneca (Days Inn 803-885-0710) and Greenville. Camping is available at Table Rock State Park 803-878-9813.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Exxon Service Station/Convenience Store at the

intersection of SC 11 (Cherokee Foothills Scenic Highway) and SC 8. Lunch materials are available here or bring your own. After lunch there will be a moderate 1 1/2 mile hike to a scenic waterfall for those who are interested.

Registration: Contact Heyward Douglass at (803) 654-7461 to reserve space. Send registration form with fee to CBC headquarters.

Santee National Wildlife Refuge

Leader: Lex Glover

June 5, 1993

Limit: 15 Participants Cost: \$5

Meet at 7:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the refuge headquarters/visitor center which is located on Hwy 15/301 (exit 102, I-95) south of Summerton, SC.

We will visit the Bluff, Cuddo, and Pine Island units of the Refuge. Some of the target birds include Painted Bunting, Least Bittern, Purple Gallinule and King Rail. We will also look for Warbling Vireo. A

small population has begun nesting here in recent years. There are a couple of heron and Anhinga rookeries we will visit also. If there is interest we can try for owls in the late afternoon. The Refuge does have a pair of resident Barn Owls.

This field trip will require several miles of easy walking. Bring snacks, lunch and plenty to drink. Insect repellent will also

be needed.

The town of Santee, SC has a variety of motels to choose from and Santee State Park has camping facilities.

Registration: Contact Lex Glover at (803) 438-1703 (evenings) to reserve space. Send registration form with fee to CBC headquarters.

The Epidonax Challenge

Leaders: Roger McNeill & Bert Fisher

June 5-6, 1993

Limit: 15 Participants Cost: \$15

The group will leave from Joey's Pancake House in Maggie Valley, NC at 8:30 a.m. Saturday morning, June 5. The itinerary will be along the western end of the Blue Ridge Parkway visiting Hientooga, Devil's Courthouse and Shinning Rock Wilderness Area, Mt. Mitchell and various productive overlooks.

Specific areas visited will depend on birds located by the leaders prior to the trip.

This is a wonderful time of the year for lowland migrants that breed in some numbers along the parkway. Species expected will be all four of NC's breeding Epidonax flycatchers, Blackburnian, Canada, Cerulean, Chestnut-sided, Black-

throated Blue and Black-throated Green Warblers. The Veery's musical calls will be heard as we sort through Red-breasted Nuthatches, Solitary Vireos and the striking Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Saturday night there will be a side trip for all interested in trying for Saw-whet Owl.

(continued next page)

Epidonax Challenge

(from previous page)

We most certainly will hear them and might get a lucky glimpse.

Information and directions to accommodations will be furnished at time of registration.

Registration: Contact Roger

McNeill at (919) 556-3161 (W), (919) 556-2154 (H) or Bert Fisher at (919) 684-5114 (W), (919) 932-9870 (H) to reserve space. Send registration form with fee to CBC headquarters.

For the second consecutive year North Carolina's Outer Banks was the site for a birding trip co-sponsored by the Carolina Bird Club and the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences. An enthusiastic group of about twenty participants met at The First Colony Inn in Nags Head on Friday evening, January 8, 1993, for a program conducted by Jan Weems and John Wright. Jan's humorous discussion of different levels of birdwatching expertise and intensity, and John's slide show of birds of the Outer Banks whetted our appetites for birding.

The nor'easter that was blowing on us that weekend did not discourage our group. After a delicious breakfast at the First

Outer Banks Winter Birds

by Paula Wright

Colony Inn on Saturday morning we drove the museum van and other vehicles to Pea Island national Wildlife Refuge and birded the ponds from the roadside. The vehicles provided shelter from the rain and wind for some of us. John, with the aid of an umbrella and spotting scope, helped many of the novice birders with identification of

widgeon, Gadwall, Canvasback, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Black Duck, Tundra Swan, Snow Goose, etc. Later we looked for rare gulls at the harbor at Wanchese on Roanoke Island, but only found Ring-billed, Herring, and Great Black-backed Gulls to feed our loaves of stale bread. We did some ocean watching on Sunday before ending our trip.

The weather was about as unpleasant as it could be, but it did not deter our group from having a great time together. We were appreciative of the great natural beauty of the area, the birds that were there for us to observe and study, and the companionship of both old and new friends.

Parnell And Audubon Team For Survey Of Nesting Colonial Waterbirds

A large number of CBC members became aware of the critical importance of the effort to protect nesting colonial waterbirds in North Carolina at the fall, 1992, meeting in Wilmington, NC. Walker Golder, Manager of the National Audubon Society's North Carolina Coastal Islands Sanctuary, and one of our speakers at that meeting is appealing for help.

During the spring and summer of 1993, Audubon will team up with distinguished ornithologist and CBC member Dr. James F. Parnell to conduct a much-needed,

coast-wide survey and census of North Carolina's nesting population of colonial waterbirds. The project will require two teams of trained researchers and nearly three months to complete. The data gathered will direct future management and protection efforts and will also be vital to understanding statewide and nationwide population trends of many species; as similar efforts will take place in other Atlantic coast states.

Financial assistance is needed for this project. Checks should be made payable

to National Audubon Society, designated for the NC waterbird census, and mailed to P.O. Box 5223, Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480.



Audubon Exhibit

The rare, four-volume double elephant folio of *The Birds of America* by John James Audubon will be on view at the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh February 6-June 20. Twenty-seven hand-colored engravings from the publication will also be on view.

Audubon, the noted American ornithologist and artist, realized a lifelong goal in *The Birds of America*--to publish a book illustrating every species of bird found on the North American continent.

The 435-plate, double-elephant folio took 11 years to complete, from 1827-1838, and represents years of strenuous field work by Audubon to document more than 1,000 birds.

The double elephant folio was purchased by the State of North Carolina in 1846 and has not been exhibited since the volumes were transferred to the Museum in 1974. Admission to the Museum, located at 2110 Blue Ridge Road, is free.



Both North and South Carolina allow you to designate part of your state income tax refund to a special fund for nongame and endangered wildlife. Contributions were down in NC in 1991 from the previous year. Check the appropriate block on your tax return this year and do your part for wildlife.

Concerned Citizens Act To Save Migratory Birds

Saturday, May 8, 1993 will be the first annual International Migratory Bird Day. On that day and the second Saturday in May each year thereafter, individuals and organizations throughout the Western Hemisphere will participate in activities dedicated toward the conservation of the more than 300 species of birds that migrate across the Americas.

This event is being coordinated by the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center in cooperation with the Information and Education Working Group of Partners in Flight.

For time untold these birds--songbirds, shorebirds, birds of prey, and waterfowl--have heralded spring and departed as summer's leaves turn crimson. In recent years, however, spring has grown quieter and the fall skies stiller.

Populations of forest-dwelling migratory birds in eastern North America declined at a rate of one to three percent a year between 1978 and 1987. Duck populations during the last decade have been the lowest ever recorded, continent-wide. Populations of some species of shorebirds and birds of prey are showing continual declines.

The decline of migratory birds is primarily due to the destruction and degradation of habitat throughout the Americas. Many scientists believe that

MISSING!

Have you seen these birds lately?



Northern Parula



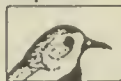
Rose-breasted Grosbeak



Northern Oriole



Wood Thrush



Bachman's Warbler
Last sighting
Cuba 1981



Scarlet Tanager

Known To Migrate Between North and Latin America

Guilty of:

- Insect Control
- Seed Dispersal
- Singing at Dawn

Last Seen Before:

- Habitat Destruction
- Pesticide Use

WANTED ALIVE

migratory birds act as the world's modern day miners' canaries, giving notice of the danger humans face unless immediate action is taken to protect the environment.

International Migratory Bird Day will inspire new conservation action and provide a stage for the numerous efforts already under way through the international Partners in Flight-Aves de las Americas Program. Scientific findings will be brought to the attention of the public, media, and legislators. Citizens throughout the Americas will take part in bird counts, sponsor lectures, set up educational displays, hold fund raising activities, and band together to restore and protect fragile habitat.

Individuals interested in organizing events should obtain one or more of the following resources: The Migratory Bird Handbook. A 172 page workbook of ideas for planning and running events for International Migratory Bird Day and every day. Available from: Jamie K. Doyle, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, National Zoo, Washington, DC 20008. Cost \$5.00. Migrant Birds: A Troubled Future? Slide show consisting of 60 slides, narrated cassette, and written script. Available from Crow's Nest Birding Shop, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. Cost \$50.00 plus \$4.95 shipping and handling.

An important part of this day will be the the North American Migration Day Count. The Carolina Bird Club Executive Committee has endorsed the Count and is working toward removing the conflict with our annual spring meeting. If you would like to organize or participate in a count, contact Robin M. Carter, count coordinator for the Carolinas, 4165 E. Buchanan Drive, Columbia, SC 29206, Tel. (803) 782-8820.

Six counts were held in SC in 1992, and Albert Conway has issued a plea for help in Chester County, SC, which he and his wife covered by themselves last year. Contact him at (803) 329-3759.

Hotline Highlights

by Taylor Piephoff

Gulls.

Red-necked Grebes appeared at several inland locations in NC; while Eared Grebes were found at several sites in both states.

Unusual ducks were hard to find with only one report of Harlequin Duck from NC and one Common Eider from SC. Dependable Eurasian Wigeon at North Carolina's Outer Banks were again found, and one appeared at Huntington Beach State Park in SC.

A Western Tanager visited a feeder in Wilmington, NC, and wintering

hummingbirds were in both Carolinas.

Lapland Longspurs appeared in numbers near Orangeburg, SC for the only Carolina's report. Snow Buntings were found only once, at Cape Hatteras in February.

Many callers reported on the lack of "winter" finches at their feeders. Purple Finches were around, but in generally single digit numbers. They were absent in many locations. One one report of Pine Siskins came in, from Raleigh, NC, and Evening Grosbeaks were not even mentioned.

CBC Rare Bird Alert

(704) 332-BIRD

(Caution: sightings reported on the RBA are not necessarily verified, and publication in the newsletter does not substitute for review by the appropriate Bird Records Committee and publication in *The Chat*.)

Jan/Feb, 1993

The new year has gotten off to a strong start from the standpoint of bird rarities in both Carolinas. The best of them continues to be a Black Guillemot at Huntington Beach State Park in South Carolina. A Razorbill was widely reported from this same location, while up to 15 Razorbills were present at Cape Hatteras Point in February. Rare gulls were especially well reported in North Carolina with Thayer's, Glaucous, Iceland, Lesser Black-backed, and Little Gulls all reported from the Outer Banks. At Morehead City, NC, a California Gull appeared along with Iceland, Glaucous, and Lesser Black-backed

Conservation Committee Off To A Promising Start

Hooray for Asheville! The U.S. Forest Service has shelved plans to cut trees from a biologically significant area of the Andrew Pickens District, Sumter National Forest, at least temporarily. District Ranger Horace Jarrett was reportedly flooded with letters opposing any disturbance to this area. A local environmental group obtained copies of 67 of these letters through the Freedom of Information Act, and their comment was that the letters from birders (that's you) were among the best, especially several from Asheville. You were very specific, well informed, and you expressed legitimate personal concerns about neotropical migrants, loss of critical habitat, and insufficient studies of the effects of cutting. We *can* have an impact. Thanks, letter writers!

More Letters Needed The key word above, however, is "temporarily." Compartments 15 and 16 are still scheduled for "group selection" cuts, a method that creates a greater chance for parasitism and predation on nesting birds due to fragmentation of the forest. These compartments are on the Blue Ridge escarpment near Cherokee Lake, and contain part of Tamassee Creek. There are old growth communities as identified by Dr. Chick Gaddy in a survey paid for by the USFS back in 1991, and appropriate nesting habitat for migratory birds. Dr.

Gaddy has been quoted in the local paper as being surprised that his recommendations were apparently being ignored by the Forest Service. An undisturbed corridor along the escarpment is what many of the environmental groups are working toward, along with "ecosystem management." Dr. Sid Gauthreaux has already had some preliminary input into this matter. We will keep you posted on developments. If you will express your thoughts on this matter in a letter, it could be extremely important. Send it to Ranger Horace Jarrett, 112 Andrew Pickens Circle, Mountain Rest, SC 29664.

Get On The List Do you receive information on Forest Service plans for your area? They are required to inform you and, in fact, actively solicit public input when "scoping" a new project. Also, \$450,000 has been earmarked by the U.S. Forest Service for ecological surveys along the Chattooga corridor. They will be needing our expertise in both North and South Carolina. Call your Ranger Station and get on the important lists, or call Dr. Tom Lloyd of Clemson to volunteer for some survey work (803) 656-4863.

Survey Results About 30 opinion surveys, some of them representing more than one person, were sent to me after CBC's winter meeting in Beaufort. Your much appreciated responses were as diverse

as you, but several common themes emerged. First, the vast majority feels that we do need a conservation committee and that we should deal mainly with Carolina issues and bird related issues. Second, you feel that we need a philosophy, goals, guidelines, or a specific direction. I'm asking Frances and CJ Nelson to work on that. You may be asked to help. Next, several thought that we should coordinate with existing groups to add impact to their campaigns, in other words, networking. Len Pardue and Pat Wilkison will take on that project. I hope that Jeff Hole will help identify some special concerns. I'm sending copies of several of your letters to Jeff for his suggestions. Finally, you felt that an awareness column in the Newsletter was a good idea. That means that we will need your input.

In Conclusion CBC's conservation efforts will be successful if our membership is willing to become involved. Your effective involvement can be as simple as a well placed letter or phone call. Please do help your Conservation Committee become a positive factor in insuring that there will always be birds for us to enjoy. *Teddy Shuler, 275 Lake Cheohee Road, Tamassee, SC 29686, Tel. (803) 944-0236.*

As Long as You Are Volunteering . . .

The 1993 Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is nearly upon us, and I am again appealing to Carolina Bird Club members to help fill some vacant routes. I am looking for volunteers for the following "un-claimed" routes:

- * Climax (southern Guilford to central Randolph counties)
- * Mooresville (southern half of Iredell County)
- * Flay (eastern Cleveland County)

The eight "claimed" routes that were not run in 1992 were hopefully not run (or reported) because of weather problems and

Breeding Bird Survey Needs Help

time constraints. If the volunteers for the Copeland (Surry County), Cypress Creek (Onslow and Pender counties), Sheffield (Iredell and Davie counties), Marshall (Madison and Buncombe counties), Monticello (Rockingham, Guilford, and Alamance counties), Jarvisburg (Currituck and Dare counties), and Fairview (Yadkin County) do not plan on running these

routes in 1993, please contact me so that I can look for a new volunteer.

The BBS is a continent-wide survey of breeding birds that is coordinated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and that has been in operation since the mid-1960's. It is the best database for determining continent-wide changes in breeding bird populations. Each BBS route is run on a single morning, generally between late May and mid-June. A route begins 1/2 hour before sunrise and lasts about four hours, with the observer

(continued next page)

Help BBS
(from previous page)

counting birds seen and heard for three minutes at 50 stops at 1/2 mile intervals along the route. Volunteers should be able to identify all birds in their area by song and call.

I would like to hear from you by the end of April if you wish to volunteer for a route or want to give up a route that you are already running. Contact *Harry LeGrand, NC Natural Heritage Program, P.O. Box 27687, Raleigh, NC 27611, Tel. (919) 733-7701.*

The Zoo Needs You

The North Carolina Zoo needs volunteers to assist with crowd control from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on weekends during its annual Free Flight Program in April. Free Flight is a unique release program aimed at raptor

education by the World Bird Sanctuary in Eureka, Missouri.

Volunteers will have the opportunity to experience the beauty of birds of prey in free flight while helping the NC Zoo with its conservations efforts. All volunteers will receive complimentary Zoo admission. To schedule a time slot when you will help call the Zoo at (919) 879-7000.



Membership Application and Order Form

Name _____ Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Tel. () _____ () _____
(home)(business)

Enter/Renew Membership As Indicated

- ____ Individual (\$12)
- ____ Family (\$15)
- ____ Student (\$6)
- ____ Affiliate Club (\$15)
- ____ Library/Institution (\$15)

Send Materials Indicated

- ____ Life (\$200)
- ____ Patron (\$50)
- ____ CBC Cloth arm patch \$1.50 ea., \$1.25 ea. in quantity
- ____ CBC Decals (vinyl stick-on) \$1.50 ea., \$1.25 ea. in quantity
- ____ Daily Checklists 10/\$1.00, 25/\$1.25, 50/\$2.50, 75/\$3.75, 100/\$5.00

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc. and mail to PO Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611

Registration Form
 CBC Spring Meeting, May 7-9, 1993

Name(s) _____
(list each name for name tags)
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ for _____ member registrations at \$4 each and _____ nonmember registrations at \$5 each. Registration at meeting will be \$5 for members and \$6 for nonmembers.

Mail with check to Carolina Bird Club, Inc., PO Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611

Registration Form
 CBC Special Field Trips

Name(s) _____
(list each participant)
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____ for the following field trips: _____ Wilmington Area Spring Birds, April 17, 1993 (\$10). _____ Caesars's Head Spring Migrants, May 1, 1993 (\$5) _____ Santee NWR, June 5, 1993 (\$5) _____ Epidonax Challenge, June 5-6, 1993 (\$15). I have called the appropriate trip leader to ensure that space is available.

Mail with check to Carolina Bird Club, Inc., PO Box 27647, Raleigh, NC 27611

Welcome New Members

George & Ann Bailey
Wilson, NC

Joseph D. Biggs
Greenville, NC

Sylvia & Dick Blee
Brevard, NC

Rebecca Yost & Robert
Dotson
Durham, NC

Charlie Edwards
Proctorville, NC

Antoinette P. Foster
Raleigh, NC

Richard & Dot Hedrick
Lenoir, NC

M/M Andy Hines
Hickory, NC

Carol A. Horton
Charlotte, NC

Elizabeth & Jordon Johnson
Sumter, SC

Emily Freeman & David
Jones
Charleston, SC

Margot Von Harten & Robert
Lathlaen
Raleigh, NC

Gwenda Ledbetter
Asheville, NC

Judy Lewis
Charlotte, NC

Betty E. McKay
Chapin, SC

Mary Ellen Myers
Decatur, GA

Alan Prevatte
Lumberton, NC

Sharon Purdue
Raleigh, NC

Betty Ristroph
Charleston, SC

William & Margaret Sheldon
Summerville, SC

Ellie & Ted Taylor
Seneca, SC

John C. Tierney
Edneyville, NC

Leslie K. Todd, Jr.
Durham, NC

Paulette C. Van De Zande
Raleigh, NC

Anne J. Wall
Knightdale, NC

Jean M. White
Raleigh, NC

Rankin Whittington
Lenoir, NC

Deceased

Ethel S. Barkley
Washington, NC

George Dorsey
Rome, GA

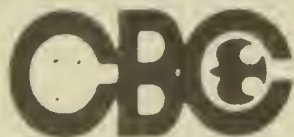
Forsythe On The Road Again

Dennis Forsythe will lead two OBServ tours in 1993 which should be of interest to CBC members. The "Eastern Passerine Migrants" tour to Toledo, OH, May 13-16, will feature spring migration at its best. The trip to Chan Chich Lodge, Belize, August 7-14, is a good

introduction to the neotropics.. If Costa Rica is your dream, Dennis and Donna will be leading a tour there with another group July 10-18. Contact Dennis at the Dept. of Biology, The Citadel, Charleston, SC 29409, Tel. (803) 795-3996 (home) or (803) 792-7877 (work).

CBC Newsletter is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc., the ornithological society of the Carolinas, with headquarters at Raleigh, NC. CBC is a nonprofit corporation, founded in 1937, with membership open to anyone interested in birds, natural history and conservation. Members are encouraged to submit items of interest to CBC Newsletter, Clyde Smith, Editor, 2615 Wells Avenue, Raleigh, NC 27608.

CAROLINA BIRD CLUB, INC.



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